

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, BU, GR

SUBJECT: CONCLUSION BITSIOS VISIT - JOINT COMMUNIQUE

REF: A) SOFIA 65 B) SOFIA 67

1. VISIT OF GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS CONCLUDED JANUARY 10. IN ADDITION MEETINGS WITH FORMIN MLADENOV, BITSIOS WAS RECEIVED BY PREMIER STANKO TODOROV AND PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT COUCHED IN GENERAL TERMS WITH NO REALLY UNEXPECTED ELEMENTS. EMPHASIS WAS ON CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS. ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS COMMUNIQUE REITERATED POSITIONS ON CYPRUS, NEAR EAST AND CSCE.

2. MEDIA COVERAGE OF SECOND AND THIRD DAYS OF VISIT LARGELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIMITED TO LISTING OF EVENTS AND IMPORTANT PERSONAGES ATTENDING.

TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS CARRIED IN PRESS JANUARY 11.

3. JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS RELATIVELY SHORT AND GENERAL. ON BILATERAL SIDE, COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIZED CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS PARTICULARLY IN ECONOMIC SPHERE. IMPORTANCE OF JOINT GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION WAS NOTED AND IT WAS AGREED COMMISSION WOULD DISCUSS TRADE, AND COOPERATION IN FIELDS OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT. IT WAS FURTHER AGREED THAT IN NEAR FUTURE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN ON LONG-TERM TRADE AGREEMENT AND AGREEMENT ON TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS TO AND FROM BULGARIA THROUGH THESSALONIKI PORT. IN CULTURAL FIELD IT WAS AGREED THROUGH EXCHANGE OF LETTERS TO EXTEND EXISTING AGREEMENT THROUGH END OF 1975 AND TO NEGOTIATE NEW AGREEMENT IN MEANTIME. (SEE REFTEL B)

4. TURNING TO INTERNATIONAL MATTERS COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS PRO-FORMA STATEMENTS ON GOOD-RELATIONS IN BALKANS. THE TWO COUNTRIES RECOGNIZED GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF CSCE AND CALLED FOR CONVENING "THIRD, FINAL" STAGE AT "HIGH LEVEL" AT "SOONEST TIME". THEY ALSO STATED SUPPORT FOR UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON DISARMAMENT, BUT MADE NO REFERENCE TO DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE. THEY GAVE A "POSITIVE EVALUATION" OF CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE PLAYED BY NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IN INTERNATIONAL POLICY. (THIS ELEMENT HAS PREVIOUSLY APPEARED IN BULGARIAN COMMUNIQUE WITH SOCIALIST OR NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES).

5. SECTION OF COMMUNIQUE ON CYPRUS CONTAINED ALL ELEMENTS LISTED IN REFTEL A, WITH ADDITIONAL DECLARATION OF RIGHT OF CYPRIOT GREEKS AND CYPRIOT TURKS TO DECIDE THEMSELVES THE STATE STRUCTURE OF THEIR OWN COUNTRY. ON THE NEAR EAST THE COMMUNIQUE SAID PROBLEM MUST BE RESOLVED ON BASIS OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS AND FURTHER CALLED FOR PRESERVATION OF LEGAL RIGHTS OF ALL "PEOPLES OF AREA" AND GUARANTEE RIGHTS AND NATIONAL IDENTITY OF PALESTINIAN ARABS.
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